



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,993	01/12/2001	Conrad V. Anderson	56077USA7A.002	1053

7590 10/01/2003
Attn James D Christoff
3M Innovative Properties Company
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
P O Box 33427
St Paul, MN 55133-3427

22
EXAMINER

OSELE, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1734

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 8-13, 17, 21-22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent Publication 2643487 (Apollonio et al.). Apollonio et al. shows a film removal method and apparatus comprising applying tension over the width of the adhesive film by adhering the film to a take up roll, 24, transferring the tension onto the substrate through a compressive roller, 34, such that as the removal apparatus is moved from a first end of the film to the opposite end the release line and compressive roller are also moved. In the method shown, the compressive roller moves at a distance behind the release line (Fig. 3; English translation, page 5, paragraph 1). Apollonio et al. further teaches adding a heater to the method (page 5, paragraph 2). Regarding claim 13, Apollonio et al. shows the invention to be used to apply and remove poster sections, which would be considered to be large-scale films.

3. Claims 1, 5, 8-10, 12, 18, 21-22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. Kuroda et al. shows a film removal method and apparatus comprising applying tension over the width of the adhesive film by adhering

the film to a take up roll, 18, transferring the tension onto the substrate through a compressive roller, 8, such that as the removal apparatus is moved from a first end of the film to the opposite end the release line (at roller 6) and compressive roller are also moved. In the method shown, the compressive roller moves at a distance ahead of the release line (See Fig. 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French Patent Publication 2643487 (Apollonio et al.). Apollonio et al. shows the claimed features except for a variable speed motor and a conformable roller. Both of these are conventional: variable speed motors allow for operator control of the processing speed, especially at start up or nearing completion; conformable rollers are used to reduce the risk of damage to a substrate (See Stadtmueller). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the claimed variable speed motor and conformable roller to the apparatus of Apollonio et al. to increase operator control and reduce the risk of damage.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6-7 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed October 8, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the transferal of tension is speculation on the part of the examiner. It is the examiner's contention that the basic structures of both Apollonio et al. and Kuroda et al. are equivalent to the structure of the instant invention. For this reason, the properties of physics in Apollonio et al. and Kuroda et al. would parallel the properties of physics in the instant invention which transfers the tension back onto the substrate.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

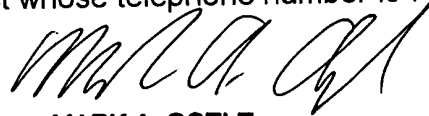
Art Unit: 1734

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A Osele whose telephone number is 703-308-2063. The examiner can normally be reached between 10:00 and 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



MARK A. OSELE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 30, 2002